Use of chemical fertilisers

†5031. DR. D. MASTHAN:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the per hectare use of chemical fertilisers in the country is lower as compared to that in other countries;

(b) if so, what is the per hectare use of fertilisers in India, China, Australia, Brazil, America, Canada, Srilanka, Pakistan and Israel, separately; and

(c) what are the reasons for under-utilisation of fertilizers in India, togetherwith its effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Per hectare consumption of fertilisers in India in 1998-99 has been 90.04 Kg. The per hectare comsumption in other countries is as under:—

(in Kgms)

Name of the country	Estimated per hectare use of chemical fertilisers—1997-98 (N + P + k)
China	262.30
Australia	42.60
Brazil	84.10
America	112.90
Canada	60.20
Sri Lanka	111.70
Pakistan	123.10
Israel	Not available

Per hectare consumption in India compares favourably with that Australia, Brazil and Canada but is lower if compared to China, America, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

†Original notice of Question was received in Hindi.

(c) The per hectare consumption in India has been increasing over the years. From 72 Kg/hectare in 1994-95, it has increased to 90 Kg/hectare in 1998-99. However, per hectare consumption in India varies widely amongst the States. From as low as 30 Kg/hectare in the State if Orissa, 37 Kg/hectare in Rajasthan, 49 Kg/hectare in Madhya Pradesh, it is as high as 140 kg/ hectare in Haryana, 152 Kg/hectare in Tamil Nadu, 154 Kg/hectare in Andhra Pradesh and 177 Kg / hectare in Punjab. The consumption of fertilisers is dependent on a variety of factors and one of the chief reasons in States having low consumption is the lack of irrigation. The low consmption of fertilisers has effect on productivity and production of foodgrains and other crops.

Sell of equity by N.F.L.

5032. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Fertilizers Limited is looking for suitable advisers to sell 51 per cent equity.

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) whether Government have decided to sell only 51 per cent and net 100 per cent of the equity in F.M.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) Government of India have sought Expression of Interest from internationally reputed merchant/ investment banks, consulting firms and financial institutions with expertise in privatisation/strategic sales with a view to identify a global advisor for disinvestment of Government equity in National Fertilizers Limited (NFL). The global advisor is required to advise and assist the Government of India in the disinvestment exercise. The decision of the Government is to disinvest 51% of NFL's equity held by Government through strategic sale to a strategic buyer alongwith the transfer of management control.

Revival Package of HFC and FCI Units

5033. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a BIFR hearing had been held on revival of HFC and FCI Units on 16th March, 2000;